THE TWELFTH DAY.

11th March 1922.

The Assembly met at 11-45 A. M. on Saturday, the 11th March 1922.

156. Christians and the public Service.

Rev. Father K. J. Kuriakose (Member, Nominated) thanked the Government for the announcement made in regard to the early separation of Devaswoms from the Land Revenue Department and stated that this reform would remove one of the real grievances of a loyal community, viz., the Christians. Their complaint was that they were not getting the encouragement they deserved in the matter of entertainment in the public service. He pointed out that there was no Christian as Secretary to Government and that there was only one Christian as judge of the High Court. He requested that, in the circumstances, the Christian community be given better encouragement and allowed their legitimate share in the public service.

Dewan's reply.—I do not think that I should make a separate reply to your representation, as I have already replied to similar representations.

157. Public service and Travancore Muslims.

Mr. N. A. Mahomed Kunju (Member, Nominated) complained that even educationally-qualified members of the Mahomedan community did not get posts in the public service and that in some Departments it was usual to entertain Mahomedans for acting appointments just to satisfy the community and the Government, but only to dispense with their services when permanent vacancies occurred. This was due to the lack of Mahomedan officers with powers of appointment. He desired that Government should enquire how far Heads of Departments had acted up to the circulars issued by Government as regards the preference to be given to Mahomedans. The practice of submitting statements showing the number of appointments made had been stopped with the result that the Heads of Departments had their own way in the matter. He submitted to Government a list of Mahomedan applicants who had been put to trouble in this respect. The grant of permanent appointments to Mahomedans holding the School Leaving and School Final Certificates would, in his opinion, be a great incentive to education among Mahomedans, and the Member prayed that those Mahomedans who were already in the Government service might be given promotions. He regretted that no scholarship had been given to Mahomedans for higher studies in foreign countries, and requested that, with a view to enable Mahomedan candidates to send up applications, notifications regarding the award of scholarships for medical and other studies might be arranged to be published in the Gazette.

In conclusion, the Member observed that in the matter of nominating Mahomedan Members to the Assembly, the opinions of recognised Mahomedan Associations such as the Lajunathal Mahomedan Association.

Dewan's reply.—In regard to Mahomedan education, I have already given my reply to Messrs. Picha Bava Sahib and others who spoke on that subject. You say that passed men in your community have not been given Government appointments, although there is a circular to the effect that preference should be given to them. I have given my reply on that point also. A better method of recruitment to the public service is being considered and, when that is done, the result will, I hope, be more satisfactory. I have collected statistics as regards appointments made in 1096. They show that several Mahomedans have been given appointments in that year. You say that you have sent me a list of applicants for appointments. I shall examine the list when received.

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You say that your Association, *i. e.*, The Alleppey Lajunathul Mahomedan Association, should be consulted in regard to the nomination of Mahomedan members for the Assembly. Government have no objection to do so and will consider the names of gentlemen sent up by your Association.

158. Necessity for a full and open enquiry by a Committee with a non-official majority into the alleged excesses committed on the 5th Kanni 1097 by the Police and the Military in and near His Highness the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum, and into the events that led to it and followed it.

Mr. Krishnan Parameswaran (Member, Parur Taluk) said that, by accident, he happened to be an eye-witness to the incidents of the 5th Kanni 1097 in and around the College compound and that it was his sincere conviction that excesses had been committed and that there was every necessity for a thorough investigation into the matter. If the alleged excesses by the Police and the Military were not enquired into and the guilty not dealt with according to law, the memory of the 5th Kanni would rankle in the minds of the student population who were the future citizens, as also of the people of the country. To ensure safety to life and property was the primary duty of every Government. He feared that the Government were not rightly or properly informed of all that took place on the occasion. It was not, he said, by inflammatory speeches or writings that the Government could be persuaded to reconsider the question of appointing a Committee of enquiry. Government had, on the other hand, to be convinced of the reasonableness of the request for a Committee by respectful arguments. He, therefore, requested the Government to re-consider the whole question and appoint a Committee with a non-official majority to institute a searching enquiry into the events of the 5th Kanni 1097 as well as those that preceded and followed them and thus relieve the tension of public feeling and thereby safeguard the fair name of Government.

Dewan's reply.—I have listened to your speech very carefully, and I regret to say that I have nothing to add to what I have already said on this matter. You say that you were present in the College compound at the time of the occurrence and that excesses were committed. If you were present and saw excesses committed, it was your duty as a responsible citizen of Travancore to have come forward then and there and told the Government what it was that you actually saw. Even now you do not say what it was that you actually saw. In the absence of such information, I am afraid that I cannot add anything to what I have already stated on the subject.

159. Responsible government.

Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai B. A., B. L. (Member, Quilon Taluk) represented that the Sri Mu'am Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council ought to be made responsible to the people. The necessity for the adoption of the measure proposed was all the more pressing at present because of the larger desire and widespread feeling produced in the country as a result of the political training the people had as Members of the Assembly, the Municipalities and other non-official committees and bodies working for the public good. Their fitness for the task had been more than once admitted by competent authorities. The immediate cause which made so many Members take up the subject of responsible government for representation at the present session of the Assembly was the students' strike and its aftermath. The subject had been so often and so elaborately threshed out both on the platform and in the Press that there was no necessity for him to make any exhaustive speech. But as one who had been closely following the various events connected with that unfortunate episode in its several stages, he assured Government that he went through the Press Communiqué most carefully and diligently and could not help feeling that he was unconvinced of the soundness of the arguments advanced and of the accuracy of the statements made therein. He had himself issued a lengthy statement containing certain facts, after making a laborious study of the subject, and his conviction was that the action of Government in not granting the request for the appointment of a Committee of enquiry in spite of so many representations in the form of resolutions passed at public meetings, the memorial submitted by the Member, etc., was the strongest proof

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